

Good News from Parks and Recreation

July 13, 2011 Parks Commission Meeting

Trails Master Plan Update:

A revised draft of the plan is expected this week based on input from the TAG group. The next step is to review the plan with a variety of City staff. Once that is completed, it will be made available to the Parks Commission and the public. We hope to have the draft plan on our website by August 1 and have scheduled two dates for public input meetings:

Wednesday, September 14 at Central Hillside Community Center 6:30-8:00 pm

Wednesday, September 21 at Hartley Nature Center 6:30-8:00 pm

Members of TAG: Judy Gibbs, Parks/City of Duluth; Amy Norris, Parks/City of Duluth; Tom Kasper, Building and Grounds/City of Duluth; Cari Pedersen, Engineering/City of Duluth; Cindy Petkac, Planning/City of Duluth; Andy Holak, St Louis County Land Use; Anne Flueckiger, Cross Country Ski; Adam Sundberg, COGGS; Dick Haney, MIC/Fit City; Brett Amundson, Hartley Nature Center; Wendee Churchill, Equestrian; Scott Marshall, Snowmobile; Dwight Morrison, Wheels on Trails; Tim Larson, Skyline Preservation Alliance and Lake Superior College; Eric Viken, Parks Commission; and Hansi Johnson, IMBA.

Parks Master Plan - available on this website: http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/master_plan.cfm

Trails/Bikeways Master Plan - available on this website:

http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/trail_bikeway_master_plan.cfm

DNR 10/25 Parks and Trails Legacy Plan - available on this website:

<http://www.legacy.leg.mn/funds/parks-trails-fund/plan>

Sign up for all **Parks and Recreation press releases** and other City announcements at

<http://www.duluthmn.gov/> - click the yellow button on the left that says "Subscribe via E-mail".

Like us on Facebook: see the blue facebook icon on our website: <http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/> or find us on Facebook at DuluthParksMN

Public Meeting for Miller Creek Disc Golf Course

This meeting will be held here today at 6:30 pm, after the Parks Commission meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to follow up with the meeting at Lake Superior College in May when we were gathering input from students. We hope other users will attend this meeting to help us determine the future of the Miller Creek Disc Golf Course. Among the issues to be discussed are: potentially moving/removing baskets, long term maintenance and trash collection and creating better playing conditions. If you are unable to attend this meeting, you can still offer your input until July 27 by visiting this website:

<http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/millercreekgolfcomments/>

Parks and Recreation seeks additional public input via a website questionnaire

A series of public meetings were held in June to solicit citizen's opinion on city park and trail priorities. The City of Duluth completed a comprehensive Parks Master plan in December 2010 and is completing a Trails/Bikeways Master Plan by the end of 2011. The people of Duluth, as part of the Parks Master Plan process, stated the need for additional resources for the city's parks and trails/bikeways systems. The City wants to know what people love about the city's parks and trails/bikeways system and how do we build a parks and trails/bikeways system that we can afford. In addition, the City wants to find out from the public what they would like to see invested in and completed if there were extra resources/funding available.

Parks and Recreation asks citizens to share their opinions about city park and trail priorities on the City of Duluth Parks website. To access the Parks and Recreation online questionnaire, simply go to www.duluthmn.gov/parks, click on "Parks and Recreation Public Input Initiative". Citizens will be able to submit their comments until July 23.

Park Point Beach

This is the City of Duluth Parks and Recreation's sanctioned swimming beach and will be staffed with life guards from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Life guards will be on duty seven days a week, weather permitting, until the last week in August.

Bayfront Park Family Center

The Bayfront Park Family Center is now open to the public most days, Monday-Thursday from 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM throughout the summer. Recreational equipment will be available free of charge for families to use while at the park. Also check out the biggest playground in Duluth, Playfront Park.

SPECIAL EVENTS JULY-AUGUST 2011

Public invited to attend Water Safety Expo on Thursday, July 14, 2011 at Park Point Beach House.

The Water Safety Expo will be taking place at the Park Point Beach House, on the far side of Duluth's Aerial Lift Bridge toward the end of Minnesota Point. The July 14 event is free to the public, and will be held from 3 pm to 7 pm. There will be informational booths, games, and demonstrations. Food and drinks will be available at low prices. Safety is the key point of the Water Safety Expo. Park Point lifeguards will be running several demonstrations on safety topics such as rescue boards, throw rings, life jacket fittings, and more. Other demonstrations will include weather safety, rip currents, and kayaking. Various organizations will provide guests with tips on how to stay safe at the beach this summer, including information about severe weather, hypothermia, and, of course – rip currents. Rip currents killed 29 people in the Great Lakes in 2010. The dangerous currents occur when winds and waves push water toward the shore in a way that generates strong but narrow channels of water flowing offshore.

The Expo is organized by the Twin Ports Rip Current Workgroup, which involves Minnesota and Wisconsin Sea Grant, the City of Duluth Parks and Recreation, the City of Duluth Fire Department, Northland Red Cross, Duluth Office of the National Weather Service, and the Duluth YMCA. Northwood Children's Services will be staffing a concession stand selling food and drinks.

Parks and Recreation and Duluth YMCA offer Sandmodeling Contest and Summer Beach Bash on July 21st

- Mark your calendar to have some fun in the sun on Thursday, July 21st at Park Point Beach with Parks and Recreation and the Duluth YMCA. In conjunction with the Parks and Recreation's Annual Sand Modeling Contest which begins at 11 am, the Duluth YMCA will be offering additional fun activities for youth and families from 11 am – 4 pm. The event will take place at the Park Point Beach House which is located at 45th Street and Minnesota Avenue. Sandmodeling teams are invited to create their own works of art in the sand from 11 am - 1:30 pm. Bring your shovels, pails, creativity and build a work of art. A panel of judges will review all the sand sculptures with prizes given in several categories. The YMCA will be on hand to coordinate activities such as a beach zumba exercise routine, beach tug of war, hula hoop contest, water balloon toss, treasure hunt, beach volleyball, and field games, and face painting.

Chester Creek Concerts (Chester Bowl, 1800 East Skyline Parkway)

All concerts are on Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 PM and free to the public. Bring a lawn chair.

July 19	Déjà vu Drifters (American Roots)
July 26	Bill and Kate Isles (Folk)
August 2	Sh-Boom (50s and 60s Show Band)
August 9	Sweet Grass (Folk)
August 16	Fishheads (Bluegrass) - rain date

Family Skating and Turf Time at the Heritage Sports Center (120 South 30th Ave West)

All skating and turf time sessions are free.

July 13	Family Skating	1:30-3:00 PM
July 14	Turf Time Activities	1:00-3:30 PM
July 27	Family Skating	1:30-3:00 PM
July 28	Turf Time Activities	1:00-3:30 PM
August 3	Family Skating	1:30-3:00 PM
August 11	Turf Time Activities	1:00-3:30 PM
August 17	Family Skating	1:30-3:00 PM
August 18	Turf Time Activities	1:00-3:30 PM
August 24	Family Skating	1:30-3:00 PM
August 25	Turf Time Activities	1:00-3:30 PM

Bayfront Festival Park (South 5th Avenue West and Railroad Street)

For more information on Bayfront Festival Park Special Events go to:

<http://secretserviceconcerts.com/bayfront-events.php>

July 16-17	Bayfront Reggae Festival
July 22	American Cancer Society's Relay for Life
July 23	Secret Service Entertainment Concert
July 29	Trace Adkins Concert
July 31	Salute the Troops
August 6	Willie Nelson Concert
August 12-14	Bayfront Blues Festival
August 20-21	Art in the Park
August 26-27	Tribute Fest

Movies in the Park OPENS THIS FRIDAY at Leif Erikson Park (11th Avenue East and London Road)

All movies are on Fridays and free to the public. Bring a blanket. Movies start approximately 15 minutes after sunset times. Movies in the Park is brought to you by the Greater Downtown Council.

July 15	Independence Day	PG	8:56 PM	144 minutes
July 22	The Great Outdoors	PG	8:50 PM	90 minutes
July 29	Edward Scissorhands	PG	8:43 PM	105 minutes
August 5	Finding Nemo	G	8:34 PM	100 minutes
August 12	Casablanca	NR	8:24 PM	102 minutes
August 19	Bad News Bears	PG	8:12 PM	102 minutes
August 26	Twilight	PG-13	8:00 PM	122 minutes
September 9	Toy Story 3	G	7:35 PM	103 minutes

Minnesota Department of Agriculture conducted Duluth gypsy moth eradication

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) treated approximately 342 acres of land in the Central Hillside of Duluth to slow the spread of a gypsy moth infestation identified last summer. Officials conducted two air treatments. Btk is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-approved bacterium with very low risk for humans or animals other than caterpillars. Btk is widely used within the organic gardening community. Gypsy moths are among America's most destructive tree pests, having caused millions of dollars in damage to Eastern forests. The moths are common in Wisconsin and are now threatening Minnesota. If present in large numbers, gypsy moth caterpillars can defoliate large sections of forest. Oak, poplar, birch and willow are among their preferred hosts.

To help area citizens stay informed, the MDA set up an Arrest the Pest Hotline at 888-545-MOTH. The hotline offered the latest details about treatment dates and times. Updates before, during and after treatments were also given on the MDA's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/mnagriculture) and MDA's Twitter account (www.twitter.com/mnagriculture). MDA's website (www.mda.state.mn.us/gypsymoth) also had information about gypsy moths and control efforts.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture to combat gypsy moth in Duluth by stopping moths from mating

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) plans to treat 460 acres of Duluth's Park Point neighborhood on the week of July 11 for the invasive insect gypsy moth. The planned treatment will use a product to confuse the moths during their mating cycle.

The gypsy moth is a voracious pest that has defoliated forests and caused millions of dollars of damage in eastern states. Annual monitoring traps indicate a growing gypsy moth population on Park Point. The MDA is conducting this treatment to ensure the area is protected from this insect.

The MDA will be using a federally approved product called SPLAT. This product contains a pheromone undetectable by humans or other animals that interferes with the male moth's ability to locate a mate. SPLAT is a waxy substance that will be hand-applied by ground crews. The product is manufactured from waxes, vegetable oils, water and other food-grade ingredients. Small dollops of the substance will be applied to trees, shrubs or posts along the length of the point.

Since SPLAT will be ground applied by MDA employees and representatives of the agency, it is important the ground crews have access to the area. While state law gives MDA authority to come onto private property for the treatment, the department is asking for permission from homeowners. To ensure access for workers, residents are asked to please leave gates unlocked and open, if possible, and bring pets inside.

The SPLAT treatment is part of a national "Slow the Spread" project, which seeks to reduce the populations of gypsy moths infesting America's forests. Similar aerial treatments of the same pheromone compound have been conducted along the North Shore since 2006.